

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/803,527

Examiner

Azizul Choudhury

Applicant(s)

MCARDLE ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/15/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4,6-17,19,21,24,26 and 28-32.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


JASON CARDONE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

AC

Detailed Action

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to the applicants, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given on March 27, 2007 by Kevin J. Zilka.

The following are the examiner's amendments to the claims received on March 31, 2006:

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer-readable medium having~~ storage device storing computer-executable instructions to automatically configure a firewall operating within an individual computer comprising: determining a zone for a network address assigned dynamically to a network adapter in the individual computer; defining the zone based on a set of network addresses including at least one address outside the zone; and associating a security policy for the zone with the network adapter, the security policy specifying the firewall configuration to protect the individual computer; wherein the security policy is defined by a policy file which includes a policy file data structure stored as an XML (extensible markup language) document; wherein a security policy section of the policy file data structure includes an entry for each security policy that is identified

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by a policy identifier field and is associated with a network protocol that is identified by a protocol identifier field; wherein the security policy section specifies filters for at least a portion of ports and services defined by the network protocol, and each port and service associated with the security policy is identified by an element identifier field, a field contained filter settings, and a log indicator field; wherein at least one security policy is included for a TCP/IP network and includes a PPTP (point-to-point tunneling protocol), a RIP (routing information protocol), a DHCP (dynamic host configuration protocol), an ARP (address resolution protocol), an Ident (identification protocol), ICMP (internet control message protocol) and VPN (virtual private networking) ports, and a NetBIOS (network basic input/output system) service; wherein a default setting for a high security policy on the TCP/IP network disallows incoming network traffic through the PPTP and ICMP ports, allows incoming network traffic through the RIP, DHCP, ARP and VPN ports, disallows access through the NetBIOS service to shared resources on the individual computer, and disallows the individual computer from using shared resources of other computers on the TCP/IP network where incoming network traffic that attempts to access the individual computer using PPTP and NetBIOS is logged; wherein a zone section of the policy file data structure includes an entry for each defined address zone and includes an identifier field, an address parameters field that defines the zone, and an identifier field for the security policy assigned to the zone; wherein a default zone is defined by addresses that are outside another zone; wherein the determining and associating is performed when the network address for the network adapter changes; wherein the security policy associated with the network protocol is specific to the

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network protocol; wherein the network address dynamically assigned to the network adapter is determined by at least one of: mapping an adapter registry identifier to an associated network address stored in an operating system registry; monitoring network traffic at the network adapter and examining a predefined limited amount of the network traffic to determine the network address; and receiving a network address from a network adapter device driver when the network adapter connects to the TCP/IP network.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ storage device of claim 11 ~~having~~ storing further computer-readable instructions comprising: determining the network address assigned to the network adapter.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ storage device of claim 11 ~~having~~ storing further computer-readable instructions comprising: assigning the security policy to the zone.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ storage device of claim 11 ~~having~~ storing further computer-readable instructions comprising: retrieving the policy file that contains definitions for the zone and the security policy and specifies that the security policy is assigned to the zone.

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15. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ storage device of claim 14 ~~having~~ storing further computer-readable instructions comprising: creating the policy file from data input by a user.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ storage device of claim 14 ~~having~~ storing further computer readable instructions comprising: creating the policy file from data input by an administrator.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ storage device of claim 14 ~~having~~ storing further computer-readable instructions comprising: receiving data from a predetermined location on the network through the network adapter; and creating the policy file from the data.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ storage device of claim 11 ~~having~~ storing further computer-readable instructions comprising: including at least one address within the zone in the set of network addresses.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1,2,4,6-17,19,21,24,26 and 28-32 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: No prior arts could be found to teach (alone or in combination) all the features within the independent claims. In particular, no prior art could be found to teach a firewall system wherein, "the

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determining and associating is performed when the network address for the network adapter changes.”

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Azizul Choudhury whose telephone number is (571) 272-3909. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Cardone can be reached on (571) 272-3933. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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